

Remarks

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-5, 7-18, 20-23, and 25-30 are pending in the application, with claims 1, 9, 14, 20, 21, 26, 29, and 30 being the independent claims. By the foregoing amendment, claims 1, 7, 9, 11, 14, 20, 21, 25-26, and 29-30 are sought to be amended, and claims 6, 19, and 24 are sought to be cancelled. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested. Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Objection to the Drawings:

Replacement formal drawings were filed on 12/2/04 to address this rejection. According, Applicants request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

Claims 1, 2, 22, and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by US patent 4,246,582 to Kondo. Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) under Kondo in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,367,540 Kakuishi *et al.* Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) under Kondo in view of Kakuishi and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,720,829 to Matsuyoshi. Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) under Kondo in view Kakuishi *et al.* Claim 13 stands rejected under 35

U.S.C.103(a) as being unpatentable over Kondo in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,231,408 to Nakase. Claim 18 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C.103(a) as being unpatentable over Kondo in view of Japanese Pub. No. 05-121907 to Sawada. Claim 19 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C.103(a) as being unpatentable over Kondo in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,744,831 to Chan. Claim 16-17 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C.103(a) as being unpatentable over Kondo. Claims 24-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kondo et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,744,831 to Chan. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Claims 6-12, 14, 15, 20, 21, and 26-30 were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 1 was amended to include the features of allowable claim 6. Claims 2-5, 7-8, 13, 16-18, 22-23 depend from claim 1. Claim 9 was amended to be rewritten in independent form and claims 10-12 depend from claim 9. Claim 14 was amended to be rewritten in independent form, and claim 15 depends from claim 14. Claims 20-21 were amended to be re-written in independent form. Claim 26 was amended to be rewritten in independent form, and claims 27-28 depend from claim 26. Claims 29 and 30 were amended to be rewritten in independent form.

Based on the above amendments and discussion, Applicants assert that claims 1-5, 7-18, 20-23, and 25-30 should now be allowable. Accordingly, Applicants request that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be removed and that these claims be passed to allowance.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicant believes that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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